1. Number of pages 8
2. Date of receipt 14.3.38
3. Initials of Reference

M.R.O. 1—82,600—93-11-30

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Const. 1-87

G.O. No. 17 Press Mis.

Dated 6-1 18 87.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 32. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel E. LAWFORD, Officiating Chief Engineer; to the Secretary to Government, dated 29th November 1858, No. 5878.

SIR,

I have the honor to submit the accompanying two bills amounting to Rupees (15,398-4-10) fifteen thousand, three hundred and ninety-eight, annas four and pice ten, received from the District Engineer Godavery Division, for building 12 boats of the aggregate Burden of 540 Tons for use in supplying materials to the Godavery works, viz. 9 boats of 40 Tons each, and 3 boats of 60 Tons each.

Enclosures 2 Bills.

2. On the representation of Colonel F. C. Cotton, the then Civil Engineer of the Division, of the great want of the means of water transport necessary to convey the large quantity of materials he had on hand to the several works, and that boats could not be hired, without exorbitant payments, the Government in Extract Minutes of Consultation No. 1112, of the 4th October 1853 were pleased to authorize the sum of Rupee 15,000 for building boats of the aggregate burden of 1,000 Tons at the rate of Rupees 15 the Ton, but Captain Rundall in forwarding the bills mentions in his letter that he is not aware on what data the above rate was founded; that he cannot ascertain that any boats have ever been constructed for less than Rupees 30 the Ton, and that the 12 boats built by him have cost about that rate.

3. Captain Rundall should however have reported the deficiency of the sanctioned estimate, as soon as he discovered it.

4. Taking into consideration the very urgent want that existed for the boats in question, and the period that has elapsed since the expenditure was incurred, I would beg to recommend that the bills referred to be sanctioned, amounting to Rupees 15,398-4-10.

No. 33 * ORDER THEREON, No. 17; dated 4th January 1859.

In Extract Minutes Consultation 4th October 1853, No. 1122, the Government sanctioned an estimate amounting to Rupees 15,000 for building boats of the aggregate burden of 1,000 tons for use in supplying materials for works in the Godavery Division. The late Board of Public Works in submitting this estimate said that the Civil Engineer was in great want of the proposed additional means of transport as boats were then being hired at exorbitant rates.

2. The Bills submitted with the letter recorded above are for building 12 boats of the aggregate burthen of only 540 tons at a cost of Rupees 15,398-4-10. It does not appear under what arrangements and under whose superintendence the construction of the boats was commenced and carried into completion; whether the boats were built one at a time, or were all put in hand at once and whether any means were taken to ascertain the correctness or sufficency of the rate inserted in the estimate. No explanation has ever been furnished as to the cause of the delay in the execution of the work or in the submission of the Bills; and it is not stated whether the boats have served the purpose for which their construction was sanctioned and if so to what extent they have proved useful. The mere statement of the insufficiency of the estimate and absence of data on which it was prepared is peculiar to the Godavery Division and tends to confirm Government in the views already entertained by them as to the unsatisfactory state of affairs prevailing in that Division.

3. Under these views the Government cannot consent to sanction the Bills for the Godavery boats unless full information on all the points above mentioned is submitted; they resolve accordingly to return the Bills to the Central Offfce.

(Signed) W. H. BAYLEY.
Acting Secretary to Government.

P. W. D

No. 17

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation

Under date the 4th ~~December~~ January 1858-9.

Read the following letter

from the Offg. Chief Engineer

(Here enter 29th November 1858 ~~to 5878~~)

In Extract Minutes

Consultation 4th October 1853

No-1122 the Government Sanc-

-tioned an estimate amount

-ing to Rupees 15,000 for con

building boats of the aggre-

-gate burden of 1000 tons

for use in supplying materi-

-als for works in the Godav-

-very Division. The late

Board of Public Works in

submitting this estimate

said that the Civil Engine-

-ers in great want of the

proposed

to proceed additional means of transport as boats were then being hired at exorbi= =tant rates.

2. The Bills submitted with the letter recorded above are for building 12 boats of the aggregate burthen of only 540 tons at a cost of Rupees 15398-4-10. It does not appear under what arrangements and under whose superintendence the construction of the boats was commenced and carried into completion, whether the boats were built one at a time, or were all put in hand at once, and whether any means were taken to ascertain the correctness or sufficiency of the rates inserted in the Estimate. No explanation has ever been furnished as to the cause of the delay in the execution of the work or in the submission of the Bills, and it is not stated whether the Boats have served the purpose for which their construction was sanctioned and if so to what extent they have proved useful. The mere statement of the insufficiency of the Estimate and the absence of data on which it was pre= =pared is peculiar to the Godaveri =very Division and tends to confirm Government in the views already entertained by them as to the unsatisfac= =tory state of affairs prevail= =ing in that Division.

3. Under these views the Government cannot consent to sanction the Bills for the Godavery boats as unless

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on all the points above
mentioned is submitted;
they resolve accordingly to
return the Bills to the Central
Office.

WHB

To Copy to the Chief Engr
with 2 Bills Cap 5-

Public Works 1859 Depart.t
Cons.: 4th January

No 17.
Extract Rems.: of Cons.:
of 4th January 1859.

From the Chief Engr 15th Febry 59
-6 N 376 inclosures.

Declining to sanction the Bills for the Godavery boats until full information regarding certain points is submitted.

No 32 & 33.